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PLACES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

WITHIN THE LIMITS OF

“OULD NEWBURY.”

PRINTED FOR
THE CITY IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY,
OF
NEWBURYPORT.

1897.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Street Railway will take visitors to most of the places named in the accompanying list, but in order to reach the points of interest mentioned on pages 7 and 8—beginning with the burying ground at Sawyer's Hill and ending with the Byfield Elm—a private conveyance will be needed.

OLD HOUSES AND NOTABLE PLACES.

PARKER RIVER AND LOWER GREEN, about four miles from Boston & Maine Railroad station, on the line of the Newburyport & Amesbury Street Railway. The first settlers of Newbury landed on the north shore of this river, in 1635, and erected the first meeting house in the immediate vicinity of the green. The first burying ground is only a few rods distant from the travelled highway and, at the present time, is surrounded by a cultivated field. Previous to 1650 a ferry was established over the river to the "great neck." In 1758 a bridge was built, at the old ferry place, under the supervision of Mr. Ralph Cross, with funds raised by lottery authorized by the General Court.

THE SPENCER PIERCE HOUSE, stands on the farm lot, of four hundred acres, laid out to John Spencer in 1635. It was probably erected by Daniel Pierce about the year 1670.

"TRAYNEING GREEN" laid out when the settlers of the old town removed to the new town of Newbury in 1645. On the high land on the easterly side of the green, a detachment of troops under the command of Col. Benedict Arnold encamped September 15th to 19th, inclusive, on their way to join the expedition for the capture of Quebec.

THE NOYES HOUSE ON PARKER STREET built about the year

1646 by Rev. James Noyes, associate pastor with Rev. Thomas Parker.

THE OLD ELM OF NEWBURY in front of the residence of Mr. William Jaques, Parker street. The subject of a poem by Miss Hannah F. Gould.

THE COFFIN HOUSE, owned and occupied by Tristram Coffin, jr. in 1653, and afterward the residence of Joshua Coffin the historian of Newbury. It has remained in the possession of the descendants of Tristram Coffin to the present time.

THE BURYING GROUND OF THE FIRST PARISH, nearly opposite the Coffin house. In this grave yard many of the first settlers of Newbury were buried including Henry Sewell, father of Chief Justice Sewell.

THE ILSLEY HOUSE. The southwesterly end of this house was probably built by Stephen Swett about the year 1670; the north-easterly end by Daniel Clark in 1756. Oliver Putnam, senior, kept tavern here from 1783 to 1797.

HOUSE NO 65 HIGH STREET, owned and occupied by Hon. Caleb Cushing at the time of his death.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE ON FEDERAL STREET, erected in 1756, remodelled in 1829 and rebuilt in 1856. Here preached Rev. George Whitefield, the revivalist, Rev. Joseph Prince, a clergyman blind from early boyhood, and Rev. Jonathan Parsons at whose call for volunteers, tradition relates, a company was raised, in the broad aisle, to serve in the Revolution. Sunday, September 17, 1775, a portion of the troops enlisted for the expedition to Quebec under Col. Benedict Arnold attended public worship here. In a vault under the pulpit Whitefield, Prince and Parsons are buried.

NO. 5 SCHOOL STREET. The house in which William Lloyd Garrison was born.

NO. 11 SCHOOL STREET. The house in which Rev. George Whitefield died.

SEA WALL AND FLAT IRON POINT, between Bromfield street and Ocean Avenue affording a fine view of the harbor.

PLUM ISLAND at the mouth of the Merrimac river. This island extends in a south-easterly direction for nearly nine miles. During the summer months horse cars run regularly, for the transportation of visitors to and from Market square, to the beach which has been the scene of frequent shipwrecks. The most memorable one is described by Celia Thaxter in a poem entitled "The Wreck of the Pocahontas."

BOMBHELL AT THE CORNER OF INDEPENDENT AND MIDDLE STREETS, brought from Louisburg by Nathaniel Knapp after the capture of that fortress in 1758.

MARKET SQUARE. On the south-easterly side near the present location of the Ocean National Bank stood the house owned by William Morse at the time of the witchcraft delusion in 1679. His wife Elizabeth was sentenced to be hanged as a witch, but was reprieved and afterwards released. The Meeting House of the Third Parish in Newbury, Rev. John Lowell, pastor, formerly occupied the centre of the square. In 1801 a new building was erected on Pleasant street to which the society removed, and the land under and adjoining the old meeting house was purchased and laid out as a market place for the use and convenience of dealers in hay, grain and other products of the farm and dairy.

NEWBURYPORT MARINE SOCIETY, organized in 1772, incorporated in 1777. Visitors are admitted to the hall of the society from ten to twelve and from two to four o'clock, daily, Sundays excepted.

SITE OF THE OLD WOLFE TAVERN, corner of Threadneedle Alley and State street.

NO. 21 CHARTER STREET, for many years the residence of Miss Hannah F. Gould, who was the author of several volumes of prose sketches and poems.

NO. 10 TEMPLE STREET. Dwelling house formerly owned and occupied by Rev. John Lowell. Removed from State street to its present location in the year 1771.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING, erected by Patrick Tracy in 1771 as a residence for his son Nathaniel Tracy. Washington occupied apartments in this house on the occasion of his visit to Newburyport in 1789, and General Lafayette was entertained there in August 1824. In the year 1865 it was purchased for the use of the Public Library. The building was remodelled at that time, and in 1882 enlarged, by the addition of the Simpson annex for the accommodation of the free public reading room which was established and has since been maintained by the liberality of William C. Todd, Esq. The rooms of the Historical Society of "Ould Newbury" are on the first floor of the main building. They are open to inspection on week days from nine o'clock a. m. to one o'clock p. m. and from two to five p. m. A small collection of books, maps, manuscripts, portraits and other relics of the olden times can be seen there.

DALTON HOUSE, built by Michael Dalton about the year 1750. After his death it was occupied by his son Tristram Dalton who was the first Senator to Congress from Massachusetts after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States. The house with the land under and adjoining the same was sold in 1791 to Moses Brown, Esq., who lived there for many years.

OAK HILL CEMETERY, consecrated July 21, 1842. Entrance from State street opposite Greenleaf street.

NEW HILL BURYING GROUND on Pond and Hill streets. This lot of land was purchased by the town of Newburyport for a burial place in the year 1800, but several persons were buried

near the northeasterly corner of the lot previous to 1735. The graves of Caleb Cushing and Hannah F. Gould are near the summit of the hill.

OLD HILL BURYING GROUND. Within this enclosure many who were once prominent in the social, political or professional life of Newbury are buried. On the head-stones that mark their graves are many quaint inscriptions.

FROG POND and BARTLET MALL. This pond was in existence previous to the settlement of Newbury in 1635 and is mentioned in the earliest grants of land made when the new town was laid out in 1645. The broad promenade on the easterly side of the pond was constructed in 1800, through the exertions and liberality of Capt. Edmund Bartlet. The Court House stands on this Mall and the Newburyport High and Putnam Free School building is nearly opposite. The statue of Washington, by J. Q. A. Ward, presented to the city by Daniel J. Tenney of New York, is at the easterly end of the Mall.

HOUSE NO. 34 GREEN STREET, built by Hon. Theophilus Parsons in 1789, and owned and occupied by him until his removal to Boston in the year 1800.

MEETING-HOUSE of the First Religious (Unitarian) Society, on Pleasant street. Built in 1800. A good specimen of church architecture with fine interior. Square pews and high pulpit.

BROWN SQUARE, laid out by Moses Brown, Esq., and made free to the public in 1802. The statue in the centre of the square was presented to the city of Newburyport July 4, 1893, by William H. Swasey, Esq.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH. The first building, erected on this site in 1738, was taken down in the year 1800 to give place to the present edifice. Right Rev. Edward Bass, D. D., was at that time rector of the church. He was also Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

DEXTER HOUSE, built by Hon. Jonathan Jackson in 1772. Purchased by Timothy Dexter in 1798 and occupied by him until his death, Oct. 26, 1805.

LOWELL-JOHNSON HOUSE, built by John Lowell, an eminent lawyer, afterward Judge of the United States Circuit Court, and father of Francis Cabot Lowell for whom the city of Lowell was named; grandfather of John Lowell who founded the Lowell Institute in Boston, and also grandfather of James Russell Lowell, the poet, and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James. The house was sold to Patrick Tracy in 1778 and occupied by his son, John Tracy, for many years. In 1782 the Marquis de Chastellux and other officers of the French Army were entertained there.

NO. 244 HIGH STREET. At this house John G. Whittier was a frequent visitor during the last years of his life.

THE TOPPAN HOUSE, No. 10 Toppan street. This house was built, in 1670, by Jacob Toppan who married Hannah Sewall, sister of Chief Justice Sewall.

HOUSE NO. 256 HIGH STREET, owned and occupied by James Parton at the time of his death.

HOUSE NO. 265 HIGH STREET, built on land granted to Edmund Rawson in 1638, by the town of Newbury, and sold to William Pillsbury in 1651. The house formerly standing on this land was destroyed by fire a few years ago and the present building was erected by the Misses Emily A. and Ellen P. Getchell, grand-daughters of Joshua Pillsbury.

OLD SHIP YARDS on Merrimac street, extending from Merrimac court to Ashland street.

FERRY LANDING at the foot of Jefferson street, opposite Carr's island. For nearly a century and a half travellers on the way to

Salisbury and the eastern frontier crossed the Merrimac river at this point in a ferry established by George Carr in 1644.

ESSEX MERRIMAC BRIDGE AND DEER ISLAND. The first bridge connecting Newburyport with this island was erected in 1792 from designs furnished by Timothy Palmer. It was replaced in 1810 by a chain suspension bridge, and, in consequence of a serious accident, again remodeled in 1826. The island is an attractive and picturesque spot, with one dwelling house thereon, owned and occupied by Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford.

FERRY ROAD LEADING TO LAUREL HILL. Laid out in 1668 for the accommodation of travel between Newbury and Salisbury, now Amesbury.

CHURCH YARD OF QUEEN ANN'S CHAPEL, NOW BELLEVILLE CEMETERY. Within this enclosure the first founders of the Episcopal church in Newbury are buried.

THE BURYING GROUND AT SAWYER'S HILL, probably laid out soon after the organization of the Second Parish in Newbury in 1695. Rev. Moses Hale, one of the first ministers in that parish, and Col. Moses Little, who commanded a regiment at the battle of Bunker Hill and afterward served under Washington at Long Island Harlem Heights, are buried in this enclosure.

THE SAWYER HOUSE ON THE ROAD TO CURSON'S MILL. One of the best specimens of early New England style of architecture to be found in "Ould Newbury."

MILL AT THE MOUTH OF ARTICHOKE RIVER. Built upon land granted John Emery, junior, in 1679, "provided that he build a corne mill to grind the towne's corne". A picturesque spot much in favor with artists.

BIRTHPLACE OF CORNELIUS CONWAY FELTON, President of Harvard College, near Brown Springs, on the Bradford road. The house was taken down some years ago; only the cellar walls now visible.

PIPE STAVE HILL, the summer residence of Hon. Tristram Dalton, while Senator to Congress from Massachusetts.

INDIAN HILL, sold by great Tom, Indian, to the town of Newbury in 1650. In 1710 conveyed to Samuel Poore, and afterward the property of his lineal descendant, Ben: Perley Poore, Esq.

TURKEY HILL, two miles from the Boston & Maine Railroad station in Newburyport. On the south-easterly side of this hill formerly stood the house owned by John Brown at the time of the Indian depredations in 1695. On the northerly side near the travelled highway is the residence built and occupied by Col. Moses Little in 1748.

THORLAY'S BRIDGE over the river Parker. First built by Richard Thorlay previous to 1654; afterwards repaired at the public expense and maintained as a free bridge to the present time.

DUMMER ACADEMY, established in 1763 by Lieutenant Governor William Dummer. Incorporated in 1782.

OLD MANSION HOUSE, NEAR DUMMER ACADEMY, built about the year 1712 as a summer residence for Lieut.-Gov. Dummer.

OLD PARSONAGE HOUSE, BYFIELD. The birth-place of Eben Parsons, the owner of Fatherland Farm, and his brother, Theophilus Parsons, Chief Justice of Massachusetts.

FATHERLAND FARM, formerly owned by Richard Dummer. Afterwards the property of Eben Parsons who built in 1802 the house now standing there.

THE LONGFELLOW ESTATE at Newbury Falls, for many years in the possession of William Longfellow, the paternal ancestor of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the distinguished poet.

THE BYFIELD ELM, at the homestead of Mr. Benjamin Pearson, about one-third of a mile from the Boston & Maine Railroad station at Byfield.



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